

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3639

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10927

E.O. L1652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, KN, UK

SUBJECT: VISIT OF NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO UK

SUMMARY: UNDER COVER OF VISITING A UN-AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION IN LONDON, THE NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA SUCCEEDED IN ENTERING THE UK AND, IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE ARRANGEMENTS HE HAD MADE WITH BRITISH AUTHORITIES, HELD TWO PRESS CONFERENCES. END SUMMARY

1. THE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT OF ONE OF THE LEADING BRITISH PROVINCIAL PAPERS, WHO HAS BEEN CLOSE TO THE EMBASSY FOR MANY YEARS, AND WHO IS ONE OF THE BEST INFORMED AND THE MOST SENIOR OF THE CORPS OF BRITISH DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENTS, PASSED US THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT AN EVENT WHICH TOOK PLACE APPROXIMATELY JULY 5:

2. HE WAS INVITED TO ATTEND A PRESS BRIEFING BY THE NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA. THE BRIEFING WAS PUT ON BY THE CHINESE PRESS ATTACHE HERE IN LONDON. ON THIS OCCASION THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS PLANNING NUCLEAR WAR AGAINST NORTH KOREA, THAT WE HAVE NUCLEAR ARMS IN SOUTH KOREA, AND THAT THE SITUATION IS MUCH LIKE
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THAT ON THE EVE OF THE KOREAN WAR OF 1950. HE SAID

FURTHER THAT THE PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF NORTH KOREA HAD MADE A FORMAL PROPOSAL FOR A PEACE TREATY TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS BUT THAT THEY HAD NEVER HAD A REPLY. HE SAID HE WAS NOT SEEING ANY BRITISH OFFICIALS ON THIS VISIT SINCE THE BRITISH WERE NOT BEING PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY OR COOPERATIVE. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN COULD BE IMPROVED IF BRITAIN WOULD STOP SUPPORTING THE UNFRIENDLY AMERICANS.

3. AMONG OTHER THINGS IN THE QUESTION PERIOD, THE NORTH KOREAN WAS ASKED WHETHER NORTH KOREA WOULD INVOKE ITS TREATIES WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA IF IT APPEARED THE US WAS PLANNING AN ATTACK. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD HOPE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM PRESENTED ON ITS OWN BUT, IF NECESSARY, IT WOULD INVOKE THESE TREATIES. HE WAS ASKED, FURTHER, WHETHER NORTH KOREA HAD NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE SAID THAT IT DOES NOT. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE DOUBTED WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WOULD ACTUALLY USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS BECAUSE OF THE NARROW CONFIGURATION OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

4. QUERIED ABOUT THIS EPISODE BY EMBOFF ON JULY 13, FCO DESK OFFICER FOR KOREA (STIMSON) EXPLAINED AS FOLLOWS: AN AMBASSADOR CHIN, WHO IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE CHIEF NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN IN GENEVA, APPLIED TO THE BRITISH FOR A VISA IN GENEVA, STATING THAT HE WISHED TO VISIT THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (IMCO) WHICH IS A UN-AFFILIATED BODY IN LONDON. HE ALSO INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO CALL AT THE FCO. HE WAS GIVEN A VISA SPECIALLY STAMPED VALID FOR IMCO BUSINESS ONLY, AND TOLD HE WOULD NOT BE RECEIVED AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE. DESPITE THE RESTRICTION ON HIS VISA, HE PROCEEDED TO HOLD TWO PRESS CONFERENCES, ONE FOR THE BRITISH PRESS AND ONE FOR THE FOREIGN PRESS. THAT FOR THE BRITISH PRESS PRODUCED MINIMAL PRESS COVERAGE. THE SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY HERE WAS BRIEFLY EXCITED BUT WAS CALMED DOWN. THE FCO INFORMED IMCO OF ITS DISPLEASURE OVER CHIN'S ACTIVITIES HERE. THE FCO UNDERSTANDS THAT CHIN'S VISIT WAS ARRANGED WHEN A SOVIET OFFICIAL IN IMCO WAS TEMPORARILY IN CHARGE OF THE OFFICE. STIMSON
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COMMENTED THAT FCO PARTICULARLY DOES NOT WANT QUESTION OF BRITISH RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA STIRRED UP PUBLICLY.

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